THE POLISH NATIONALITY ROOM

Dedicated February 16, 1940
Rooms in Cracow’s Wawel Castle, the residence of kings for centuries, inspired this setting for tributes to Poland’s astronomer, Copernicus, and the science that his theories revolutionized.

Artists came to Pittsburgh from Cracow to paint the superb ceiling of 18-foot beams with informal geometric Renaissance decorations. The Room is illuminated by a bronze chandelier bearing a stylized Polish eagle. The walnut seminar table was copied from one in a state dining room at Wawel Castle.

A replica of the famous Matejko portrait of Copernicus shows him as a young man pursuing his study of the universe from a workshop on the roof of his uncle’s house in Olsztyn. In the bay stands an enlarged replica of the 16th-century Jagiellonian Globe, the first to depict North America as a separate continent.

The original globe - only eight inches high - was designed to operate as a clock and calendar. It took the metal smith in Cracow five years to complete the large globe.

The windows combine hexagonal handmade roundels, similar to those in Wawel Castle, with stained-glass coats of arms representing Polish institutions of higher education. The cornerstone is a fragment of Gothic cornice preserved from the Collegium Maius (1369), the ancient Jagiellonian Library.

Poland’s music is represented by the original manuscript of Ignace Paderewski’s only opera, Manru, which is displayed in the archive cabinet.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
E. Maxine Bruhns, Director

We have had a very busy season completing the Korean Heritage Room and planning its dedication, debriefing our 39 Summer Study Abroad Scholarship awardees who studied worldwide from Singapore to Jordan to Montenegro, Tanzania and Egypt.

The October 30th event celebrating my 50 years with the Nationality Rooms Program was delightful from the Chinese Lion Dance to the Grecian Odyssey Dancers. My remarks made it clear that the ethnic communities of Allegheny County have been the moving force behind NRIEP for 89 years – raising millions of dollars to create their 30 Rooms and donate them to the University of Pittsburgh. Those Committees and donors have also funded 1239 Summer Study Abroad Scholarships.

I, as Director, and our staff, managed details and selection panels. But there would be no NRIEP program if there were no Room Committees!

Lastly, we are losing Susan Langer, a 28-year veteran of NRIEP. It’s like losing a right arm. But we all wish her well.
MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL
Jennie-Lynn Knox, Chair

What an exciting year it has been for the Nationality Rooms! We have new leadership in many of the Committees...the committees are expanding with new members...and everyone has been so active! It is just thrilling to attend the Council meetings and hear everyone’s reports. We even have had to find extra seats!!! We all continue to spread the word of our “Living Rooms” in the Cathedral of Learning...30 to be exact with three in planning. And one of those rare and shining gems will be dedicated this November. They have flourished under the leadership of our “Keeper of the Nations!” Fifty years Maxine Bruhns has guided us...taught us...and has continued to lead us with her love and understanding of international cultures. This year, her leadership led to 39 scholars studying abroad. Through her unending love, unending devotion, and determination, we are thriving at the University. It is an honor and a privilege for me to play a small role...and to call her my friend.

AFRICAN HERITAGE ROOM COMMITTEE
Lora Ann Bray, Chair

The AHCC’s Annual Meeting on October 6th featured a presentation by our 36th scholarship awardee, Ms. Joya Peterson. Joya is a Pitt junior majoring in molecular biology focusing on deaf culture to enhance her plan to become a genetic counselor. Joya traveled to Iringa, Tanzania over the summer interacting and learning about that culture. AHCC welcomes your financial support to send worthy students like Joya to Africa!

The AHCC also is dividing into “functional TEAMS” of membership, PR/Social Media, Programming/Community Outreach, Archives, Hosts/Greeters. Join the AHCC and have something fun and productive to do!

CZECHOSLOVAK ROOM COMMITTEE
Cestmir Houska, Chair

On July 11th the Committee featured a seminar on Jan Hus, a religious reformer who was burned at the stake 600 years ago. This begins a series of seminars devoted to the famous Slovaks and Czechs whose portraits adorn the ceiling panels of the Czechoslovak Nationality Room.

On September 12, a class to teach Czech opened to 12 children each Saturday (http://www.czechschoolofpittsburgh.com/). Committee members support the interest of Slovak parents and children in starting a similar school next year.

FRENCH ROOM COMMITTEE
Barbara Tucker, Chair

On Bastille Day, July 14, the French Nationality Room, in partnership with the Alliance Francaise de Pittsburgh and Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, hosted a fundraiser. The event took place at Carnegie Museum of Art and attracted more than 100 guests. The event featured French cuisine, French-themed music, caricaturist, silent auction, photo-booth, and a cake contest. Guests partied into the night, honoring the French holiday and ended the evening with a rousing rendition of La Marseillaise.

GREEK NATIONALITY ROOM
Venetia Moreno, Chair

A scholarship for $3,500 will be offered for graduate study in Greece in the summer of 2016.

The Greek Room plans to celebrate its 75th Anniversary with a dinner and arts event on October 29, 2016.
We will celebrate Greek Independence Day March 26th, 2016, with a parade of the Greek cultural organizations of Pittsburgh and a social with music, art and poetry ending up at St. Nicholas Church Hall in Oakland. For further info: contact Venetia Moreno @aperi50@aol.com.

IRISH NATIONALITY ROOM
Jennie Lynn Knox

The roots of Halloween are firmly planted in Irish soil. Long before Christianity arrived there, the Celtic year was divided into the Brighthalf (Beltane) and the Darkhalf (Samhain). Samhain means “summer end” and begins at nightfall on October 31, when the dead walk the Earth.

Another Celtic tradition caused people to wear costumes that resembled evil spirits in order to placate them. One old story tells of Stingy Jack, a lazy Irish blacksmith, who traps the Devil using a cross and refuses to free him until the Devil agreed never to claim his soul. When Jack dies, having been lazy and no good in life, he is refused entry to Heaven. So he turns to the Devil, who will not revoke his promise. Jack cries that he has nothing to light his way through the darkness of eternity. Laughing, the Devil throws him on an eternal flame from Hell. Jack has to carve a turnip into a lantern so he can find his way while wandering the Earth forever. He becomes known as Jack-o’-Lantern.

LITHUANIAN ROOM COMMITTEE
Len Barcousky

The food, customs and crafts of Lithuania will be celebrated from noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 8. The Lithuanian portion of the event will feature ethnic foods, singers, a children’s performance and hands-on ethnic arts and crafts.

Lawrence Kozlowski is Chairman of this year’s joint Diamond Anniversary commemoration of the dedication of the Lithuanian and Polish Rooms. Janet McCloskey Carlisle, Chairman of the Lithuanian Room Committee, is heading the Lithuanian effort with the help of members who had been meeting monthly.

The Lithuanian portion of the program will include the ethnic singing group Bociai, a brief children’s program and the re-creation of the “Echoes of Lithuania” radio program. Craft demonstrations will include Lithuanian techniques for decorating Easter (marguciai) eggs and volunteers demonstrating how to make Lithuanian straw Christmas ornaments.
POLISH ROOM COMMITTEE  
Larry Kozlowski, Chair

The Polish Room Committee was very busy creating new and interesting ornaments for this year’s “Choinka” or Christmas Tree in the Polish Nationality Room. Eggs, walnuts, feathers and wheat straw were all used to craft these new additions to the tree.

For the past 30 years, the second Sunday of November has welcomed the annual Polishfest to the Commons Room at the University. This year was no different. Polish music, singing, dancing, folk arts, cooking demonstrations, Polka music, ethnic foods, “Old World” Bakery, Kid’s Kraft Korner and more were featured. This year’s festival celebrated the 75th year since its dedication. The Lithuanian Nationality Room, for the first time, participated in Polishfest.

RUSSIAN ROOM COMMITTEE  
Chris Metil, Chair

The Russian Room Committee will resume its sale of Russian Tea Cakes this Fall to raise funds for study in Russia. The cakes will be on sale at the Nationality Rooms Open House on December 6, in the Cathedral of Learning’s Commons Room. Special orders for the holidays are available from Christine Metil (metil@pitt.edu).

SWISS NATIONALITY ROOM  
Fred Carlson, Vice-Chair

Swiss Room Committee plans to award a spring scholarship. Although our endowment account interest is not yet sufficient to fully fund a minimum of $3,500 award, our Committee pledged to bridge any shortfalls with expected “current use” funds to meet the needs of the award. This will be the inaugural Swiss Room scholarship award.

We are thinking of installing a portrait of Albert Gallatin to complement our portraits of Rousseau and Pestalozzi. Not only is Gallatin called our “Swiss Founding Father”, but he also was founder and first President of New York University. He served as Secretary of the Treasury under Thomas Jefferson.

YUGOSLAV ROOM COMMITTEE  
Ken Kornick, Chair

The display area in the Yugoslav Room has been refurbished and is now displaying books and artifacts reflecting the cultures of the six republics of the former Yugoslavia. The Committee’s efforts to secure items for the cases scored a major windfall when Edward Cohen of Lambertville, NJ, a former Cultural Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade during the late 1950s and early 1960s, donated a large assortment of books, art prints and other artifacts to the Yugoslav Room from his personal collection. Some items are so rare and interesting that they are making their way into the University Library System, while other items are already on display in the room, along with some uncovered from storage.

WELSH ROOM COMMITTEE  
Dale Richards, Chair

In July, Wales was represented in the “Our Diverse Neighbors” portion of the Cranberry Community Days celebration. We had two booths, a puppet show, a Welsh Corgi, members in the Welsh attire distributed Welsh cakes to visitors.

After a strong display at the Pittsburgh Folk Festival in May, we were eager to share Welsh traditions with our neighbors in Cranberry Township. We also held a Welsh Gathering at Bocktown Beer in Robinson Township.

In August members participated in “The Salem Homecoming” which is held once a year in August and celebrates the founding of the Salem Church in 1839.

On Labor Day weekend, The National Festival of Wales (NAFOW) was held in Columbus Ohio. Several members from Pittsburgh attended.

On September 9, the Welsh were represented at Heinz Chapel as part of the first Britsburgh, a “festival of Britain in Pittsburgh.” This year they honored Queen Elizabeth.
The committee, which met on September 26, has developed plans to acquire more items from local community organizations and to begin the work of labeling them for display. The committee is grateful to Mr. Cohen for his generous donation and Michael Walter of the Nationality Rooms staff for an excellent job of organizing and cataloging these items.

We invite other room committees to stop by the room on Saturday, November 7 (decorating day) between 10:00 and 11:30 a.m. to see the new displayed items.

**NATIONALITY ROOMS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

Maryann Sivak

- Maxine Bruhns, NRIEP Director, created a $100,000 endowment in April to provide a graduate scholarship for study in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand or Indonesia. The endowment will bear the name: Dr. Fred C. and E. Maxine Bruhns East Asian Scholarship.

- Construction of the Korean Heritage Room began in May. After a long voyage in a sea container from Seoul, the walls, floor and ceiling arrived at the Cathedral of Learning. The Korean carpenters arrived on June 1 and stayed through August. It will be the 30th Nationality Room, dedicated on November 15. The Room depicts the Hall of Enlightenment, which was the main lecture hall of the Royal Academy in the 14th century. The lecture hall now exists as part of Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul.

- Maxine hosted a group of blacksmiths who travelled to Pittsburgh to look at the ironwork in the Cathedral of learning. She was then interviewed by Mark Aspery, Editor of the magazine “Hammer's Blow.” Chris Budny, contributing photographer to Nol Putnam’s book about the Washington National Cathedral’s ironwork, Beauty in the Shadows, came to Pittsburgh especially to photograph Cathedral of Learning ironwork for the upcoming book by Bruce Jarrell about the Cathedral of Learning’s ironwork.

- Mohammad Taheri, owner of Shaherazad Antique Oriental Rugs, graciously offered to clean and repair the rug in the Braun Room. It turned out that this Persian rug was made about 205 years ago for a regional king (Khan) in the northern part of Iran around 1810. It is extremely valuable.
Congratulations to the Iranian Nationality Room. The Iranian community submitted a request to the University of Pittsburgh to have an Iranian Nationality Room. The request was approved by Chancellor Gallagher. Ali Masalehdan is the Chair and has begun fundraising. This is Pitt’s third attempt to build an Iranian room, a project this committee of 10 members, including representatives from Persian Pathers and the American Middle East Institute, has worked on since 2011.

Pitt Magazine featured five NRIEP Summer Study Abroad Scholarship winners in their Summer 2015 issue. They were: Darius Bittle-Dockery - Jordan; Jared Clay Rogers - Cameroon; Daniel Ku - Singapore; Courtney Weaver - Ukraine; Caitlin Riley - Montenegro. Each awardee appeared in the Room representing the country where they studied.

We hosted the Project to End Human Trafficking organization. This is a volunteer non-profit that seeks to end human trafficking. They brought with them seven Azerbaijanis who wanted to see our Nationality Rooms.

In June the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette featured two articles: one on the Korean Heritage Room construction (http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/art-architecture/2015/06/17/Carpenters-from-Seoul-constructing-a-Korean-Nationality-Room-at-Pitt/stories/201506200001) and the other on other Nationality Rooms in the works (http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/art-architecture/2015/06/17/Other-Nationality-Rooms-in-the-works/stories/201506170002).

This year Maxine taught an OSHER at Pitt Nationality Rooms Course entitled “History of the Nationality Rooms” from June 30 to July 28. The class was full and very well attended.

The Ukrainian Nationality Room celebrated the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Ukrainian Nationality Room. The concert was held at the Frick Fine Arts auditorium and featured the music of accomplished musicians and the Kyiv Dance Company

Maxine and Karen Yee were interviewed by the ICN TV Reality Show in the Chinese Nationality Room.
In July we held a special Thanksgiving Dinner at Maryann Sivak's house in Edgewood, for the Korean artisans. It was a huge success. In addition to a delicious dinner, the carpenters admired Maryann's home built in 1902.


India Day 2015, commemorating 68 years of India's Independence, was very well attended. This year they celebrated Technology, Innovation and Development Achievements over those 68 years. As Mayor Peduto couldn’t arrive in time for the Opening Ceremony, Maxine hoisted the American flag. The Mayor came afterward.

Pittsburgh Magazine reporter, Lauren Davidson, conducted an interview with Maxine about her 50 years working at Pitt. The article appeared in the October issue and can be also viewed online: http://www.pittsburghmagazine.com/Pittsburgh-Magazine/October-2015/She-is-The-Keeper-of-the-Nations/.

Maxine was interviewed and filmed in the African heritage Room by the Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program on whose Board Maxine serves. Maxine met Albert Schweitzer when she lived in Gabon, Africa and has since practiced his philosophy by not harming any living thing.

On October 25th, the Chinese Nationality Room held a Scholarship dinner at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel. This year Maxine was honored for her 50 years working at the Nationality Rooms. She was the first non-Chinese person to be honored.

MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Susan Langer

It is with a mixture of contentment and a heavy heart that I am retiring on November 30th of this year. Contentment because I have tried to do my very best to cultivate and develop the Nationality Rooms Program. I feel blessed that I have done this with all of you and your predecessors. A heavy heart simply because I will miss all of you and my colleagues. However, the seed of retirement was planted two years ago, it has taken root and my decision was made.

It has always been a pleasure and I have enjoyed working with all of you over the past 28 years. I have learned, along with the committees, the many challenges that are faced when planning an event to its completion. From the inception of the Indian
Festival; transitioning the venue change for the Polish Festival; developing the new format of the Open House in 1991 which continues to this day; and the numerous Cabaret Balls to name only a few of the many events held in the past. I have made many wonderful friends whom I will continue to keep in touch with after I leave the NRP.

The transition should be a smooth one as Cristina and David are continually doing an excellent job advising the committees regarding events and scholarships. I will be working with UCIS (University Center for International Studies) to transition the financial agency, endowment and business accounts of which there are more than hundred!

Again, I will miss you all but I will be back for many events. Wishing you all a happy, healthy future.

INFORMATION CENTER
Michael Walter, Nationality Rooms Tour Coordinator and Quo Vadis Advisor

Statistics
August - 2,469 guests; September - 1,208 guests; October - 1,388 guests

Quo Vadis News - The guides had a table at the Student Activity Fair and received a huge response from interested students wishing to become guides. So far we have more than 20 trainees.

Our long-standing guide, Max Adzema, a fifth-year senior has been assisting me with inventorying objects that have been donated over the decades. One object, not specifically associated with the inventory project, was the rediscovery of the Victorian Gothic Minton tile fireplace surround for the English Room. It was part of the original design of the English Room, coming with the cache of artifacts, but by 1954 Lord Bossom, and Ruth Crawford Mitchell decided to remove it in favor of the iron andirons and iron fireback that were more in keeping with the time period which the English Room represents. Albert Tannler of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation was elated when contacted about the rediscovery and has since written an article about the item, found here http://pclf.org/education-department/architectural-history/articles/treasure-in-the-cathedral-a-w-n-pugin-in-pittsburgh/. Another positive to come from it was that Max was hired as an intern at the PH&LF.

The object inventory project is an involved process by which I photograph items, describe them, and fit them into a web-based template. That template will later become live on the Nationality Rooms website, and at that point we will have a searchable archive and online gallery of items that otherwise don’t see the light of day. Besides Max Adzema, I'd like to acknowledge Mariah Flanagan who started the project with me last Spring.

Current Quo Vadis President, Heather Johnson, Pharmacy P2, was invited to the Chancellor’s residence for a dinner given to club presidents. There, she represented Quo Vadis and chatted with Chancellor Gallagher about taking a tour for himself, and he promised to do so.

Heather Johnson
**Maintenance**

Repainting the African Heritage Room display cases occurred in late Summer, as did the UV filming of the glass display doors. We noted the UV film was very reflective on such a large span, so it has been removed. The painters will apply it to the building windows. It was a learning experience. Currently on view are some of Ralph Proctor’s donations: a large mask and several smaller ones.

The German and Polish Room floors were entirely stripped, sanded and refinshed. The effect is amazing. One now sees different colored species of oak patterns adorn the Polish floor. It was obscured entirely by years of floor finish build-up. To protect the finish and the wood, steel convex glides were placed on the chairs in those rooms to protect the floor finish. Thanks to Torran, Ray and Dave from the Pitt Painters for an exquisite job. Thanks to Rusty from the Carpenters for the glides.

Another vexing problem has been people removing Room signs from the doors. If your Room does not currently have a sign, we will remedy that as we can get new signs printed and new name sign holders made.

Door locks have also become a problem. The old mechanism in the Czechoslovak Room door broke. The Lock Shop has had to keep the innards of the locks operable. They must also eventually change the lock for the Welsh Room door, so that people cannot lock themselves inside the room with the deadbolt.

**Technology News**

The original audio players have been changed to newer digital models. Currently all 24 players (nine more than we had) are programmed with English and foreign languages. New recordings in the Korean and German languages are needed. Individuals with expert knowledge of German and Korean are invited to apply.

**Noteworthy Tours & Outreach**

There were many Family Weekend tours in September and many tours given to Freshman Programs’ Intro to Arts & Sciences classes.

October 28th, we visited Redstone Highlands Retirement Community in Greensburg. There, we made a presentation about the Nationality Rooms from the point of view of themes that Rooms share, as well as the Winter holiday traditions. Show and tell was a big hit, and because of our efforts, Redstone Highlands of Murrysville has requested the same presentation on December 11th.

**Donations**

Mrs. Grega of Pittsburgh donated a Slovak lady’s blouse and an altar cloth / pillow cover, each estimated to be 75-100 years old.

Miss Dax and Miss Dax, both of Pittsburgh, donated Hungarian ceramic dolls, a pair of Russian figurative bronze candlesticks, and a Hungarian biscuit holder and tablecloth.

Edward Cohen’s New Jersey book donation is finding its way into the Yugoslav Room. Come to see the new display cases and shelves, bearing the poetry of Preseren and Njegos, and a study of Serbo-Croatian folksongs co-authored by the famous Bela Bartok.
GIFT SHOP
Anita Gallagher

The last quarter represents a return to a busy and exciting time of year in the Gift Center. The students return, lots of families visit us during this time and become future customers when they visit their children. We begin our tradition of seasonal displays starting with Oktoberfest, then Day of the Dead, Thanksgiving and on to the Holiday season.

On a business note, we have two new employees in the Gift Center, Cheryl and Kirsten. They are doing a great job for us. Sales are consistently higher than the same time last year. They are very gracious with our visitors and have made a great addition to our staff.

In compliance with the new university policy for increased security, our credit card machine will soon be upgraded and replaced.

COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS
Cristina Lagnese

It’s been a whirlwind at the Nationality rooms Program generated by your activities and collaborations. Your efforts and creativity breathe life into the Nationality and Heritage Room Committees and fulfill the Program’s mission of preserving and promoting cultures.

The programs include Egg Decorating, committee-sponsored speakers such as *The Christian Heritage of Kosovo and Metohija* and topical events such as *A Dialogue with Charleston Artists*. Other new efforts include a Czech language class for children and we can’t forget about our annual festivals such as India Day. The Japanese tea ceremony and the Chinese calligraphy demonstrations brought together Asian Studies Center for the Mid-Atlantic Region. Let me highlight a few upcoming events:

- Annual Polishfest featuring the Polish and Lithuanian’s 75th anniversary of their Rooms’ Dedication—November 8 from Noon to 5:00 p.m. in the Cathedral of Learning’s Commons Room.
- Korean Heritage Room Dedication—November 15 at the Heinz Chapel.
- Holiday Open House—December 6. This annual event highlights holiday traditions from our Committees and attracts thousands of guests.

You have also generously contributed to the Nationality Rooms’ scholarship program. Here are our 2016 scholarship offerings.

SUMMER STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP

The Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs are now accepting applications for 39 scholarships. Scholarships are available for both graduate and undergraduate students and range from $3,500 - $5,000. Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time students at the University of Pittsburgh. Awards are for international study taking place during the summer term and must be at least five weeks long. Undergraduate applications are due **January 7, 2016**. Graduate applications are due **January 21, 2016**. For additional eligibility requirements and information on applying, visit: [http://nationalityrooms.pitt.edu/scholarships](http://nationalityrooms.pitt.edu/scholarships) grants.
We welcomed Dr. Erika Moravčíková and Ms. Jana Lokajová as our 2016 RCM Fellowship winners. Dr. Moravčíková is researching lung cancer development at the Hillman Cancer Center and Ms. Lokajová is conducting linguistic research in technical discourse and terminology. Erika has been biking to work. Jana got a lesson in baseball while watching the Pirates play at PNC Park.

Erika Moravčíková  

Jana Lokajová

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

E. Maxine Bruhns is participating in the funding and mentoring of Bashir Alghussein, a Human Rights lawyer from Gaza. Bashir is one of 18 International lawyers chosen to attend the University of Pittsburgh's Center of International Legal Education. Previously he studied in the United Arab Emirates and Spain

Bashir Alghussein

ARMENIAN NATIONALITY ROOM FELLOWSHIP

The Armenian Room Committee will offer a fellowship to bring a professional from Armenia’s academic/education, business/economics, government, healthcare or scientific sectors to the University of Pittsburgh for the 2016 Fall Term of non-degree research which will enhance the applicant’s career and bring best-practice methods to their country.

BOWMAN FACULTY GRANTS

Bowman Faculty Grants - Ten grants of $2,000 each are funded by an endowment in memory of Chancellor John Gabbert Bowman. The grants are offered to full-time faculty members to conduct research abroad and enhance the quality of their teaching or develop new courses.

SCHOLARSHIP CORNER

2015 AWARD RECIPIENTS

This year we awarded 39 summer Study Abroad Scholarships totaling $140,980.

UNDERGRADUATE

Jamie Cooper – Italian Room Committee Scholarship – Italy

“The pace on the streets is very slow, without much order, and everyone is expected to be late to everything. This was frustrating at first until one night when I was weaving past people to get home, I realized I had no reason to be rushing. I slowed to the ‘Italian pace’ and since then continued to do so. I appreciated my walks more, I looked around at all of the architecture and the people I was with and it was quite liberating.”
Katie Dunkelberger – Savina S. Skewis Scholarship – Germany
“During my internship I gained the confidence and institutional knowledge to be a useful asset in a professional, foreign setting. My German language abilities improved drastically... I also feel that I am much more aware of and openminded to different life styles and cultures. I met people from all over the world, ate different foods, and heard a handful of languages.”

Andrea Evankovich – Polish Room Committee Scholarship – Poland
“I got an in depth view of how a community and hospital pharmacy are run. I was surprised that there could be so many similarities while also so many differences in the practice of this profession between the United States and Poland... In Poland, all medications come pre-packaged and all prescriptions have a series of barcodes on them so that the patient can be linked to the doctor and the medication prescribed.”

Madalyn Fritch – Women’s International Club Grant - Turkey
“One of my most fond memories was staying at my friend Buse’s home during the last week of Ramadan. The whole week was spent taking walks along the beach five minutes from her home, eating beautiful Iftar dinners with her parents, visiting her cousins and relatives, shopping at various malls, studying together while her mother served us Turkish coffee and read our fortune from the coffee grounds.”

Brooke Genovese – Women’s International Club Scholarship – Australia
“This appreciation for nature allows the Aboriginal people to maintain a balance within the environment; every time something is taken from nature, it is in some form replenished. In this way, the native people maintained a symbiotic relationship with their natural world. This practice is something that needs to be brought to light on a global scale.”

Bradley Hanlon – David L. Lawrence Memorial Scholarship – Russia
“The homestay option was undoubtedly the single most beneficial part of the program, although the excursions and travel provided were also instrumental in cultural immersion. My program also had an excellent system for helping us meet and get to know Russians, providing a great cultural experience and language practice.”

Gabrielle Hill – Scottish Room Committee/ Frank and Vilma Slater Fund Scholarship – Scotland
“I was able to go to Scottish Parliament and talk to a few people about the referendum. Talking to locals, was of course, incredibly fascinating and enabled me to get a firsthand account on the September referendum. From there, I translated my experiences to text, maintaining a travel journal daily.”

Jordan Johnson – Helen Pool Rush Grant – Costa Rica
“Costa Rica lives by the phrase ‘Pura Vida’ meaning pure life. They use it as a greeting, a way of saying ‘no worries,’ or just an interjection. This concept of a pure life has really permeated Costa Rican society. People do not rush around, they are relaxed and happy and chase after a simple, blissful life.”

Derrick Kreider – Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Scholarship – Germany
“In visiting Germany, I have definitely come to understand better how vast the world actually is, and even more so how the smallest towns can offer such an interesting and diverse group of people and experiences. After seeing the diversity so far from home, I am much more eager to experience life not only around the world but also in my overlooked backyard.”

Melissa Kukowski – Indian Room Committee Scholarship – India
“My host mom, Priya, normally gets four girls, but since the group was so small this session, she only got three. Since our home was a long-term hostel, I was able to become good friends with two of the girls also staying at Priya’s. I do not even know where to begin with Priya. I could not have asked for a better host mom. I already miss her voice telling us to eat enough and asking how our day was.”
Jared Muehlbauer – Austrian Room Committee Scholarship – Austria
"I watched one of the other American students throw a bottle into the wrong section of the trash can (of which there were four). An Austrian, who had seen this as well, went over to the trash can, reached in, took out the bottle, and put it into the section labeled 'plastic.' All of this made me realize that this... was due to the fact that they have pride in where they live, and that they truly care about keeping the city clean for the good of the whole."

Anisa Mughal – Savina S. Skewis Grant – Ecuador
"I will always remember my host family. They came from hard circumstances... Despite the hardship, one daughter just graduated medical school and the other is doing well in high school. They are still fairly poor... It struck me how humble and happy they were despite the hardships they had lived through."

Kayko Ohkawa – Japanese Room Committee Scholarship – Japan
"I found a new interest in economics of food and food security after visiting rice fields with my friend's father, who is a professor in economics and agriculture...I walked through the streets of some of the oldest and most historic cities in Japan, hiked up Mount Fuji, and ate lots of good food."

Minyoung Park – Women’s International Club Grant – Costa Rica
"For one thing, 'Tico time' is real and prominent. It’s an endearing/jokingly spiteful term to describe the tendency for Costa Ricans to run 30 minutes – 1 hour late to meetings because they value relationships over hurried time. For instance, if they run into someone they know along the way to the meeting, they will take the time to talk to that person. After all, it would be rude to brush off this person!"

Grace Pehlert – Austrian Room Committee Grant – Austria
"I will also never forget my German teacher. By the end of the program she was much more my friend than anything else, because she cared about her students as people. She inspired me to work hard and ask questions and presented material in a meaningful way. I will never forget the day we made an enormous apfelstrudel together and shared stories."

Maura Perri – John H. Tsui Memorial Grant – China
"My visit to Tian Tian (The Temple of Heaven) was particularly special... Once we got there, it seemed like just another tourist site, but as you walk through, you notice the place is bustling with locals who seem to congregate there just to hang out. We saw people playing cards, checkers, dancing, taking wedding pictures, and so much more. At one point, we passed what seemed like a large chorus made up of elderly Chinese folks singing a patriotic or proud song in unison."

Joya Petersen – African Heritage Classroom Committee Scholarship – Tanzania
"I thought that it would be insanely boring without having any power, not to mention a phone or Internet connection but... it was really easy to forget about what we did not have and to just enjoy the relaxing atmosphere and beauty of the area. Working and living with the other volunteers and workers in Mufindi was a truly inspirational experience."

Caitlin Riley – Helen Pool Rush Scholarship – Montenegro
"My teachers were patient and understanding while I was improving my language skills. They really helped me improve my language skills and for that I am thankful... I learned a lot about the culture thanks to the excursions to historical cities and landmarks."

Johanna Seitenbach – Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Grant – Ireland
"I went with another student at the University of Pittsburgh and we decided to do this hike in Howth, a fishing village on the edge of Ireland. We realized once we started that the directions leading us through the hike weren't clear and we ended up off the trail. It took us double the time to complete the hike, but it was worth it because the view was magnificent and it was wonderful weather."
Courtney Weaver – Nationality Council Grant – Ukraine
“Watching as, even in the face of political, economic, and social instability, Ukrainians persevere, and refuse to be beaten down by their circumstances, was truly inspiring. It is the small joys in life that Ukrainians cling to in the face of so many questions and uncertainties; a new batch of apples from the dacha, a festival in the closest park, flowers on every street corner.”

Matthew Wecht – Israel Heritage Room Committee Scholarship – Israel
“The most confusing part of all this was that nearly every person you encountered was multilingual. Nearly everyone spoke Hebrew, or at least understood it, while others spoke Arabic. One could just as easily run into an immigrant speaking French, Russian, various African languages, and occasionally English. Often times interacting with shop keepers would consist of saying hello in as many languages as possible before finding the one that you could butcher into a manageable form of communication.”

Alexandra Yingst – Nationality Council Scholarship - Panama
“One of the field technicians … is of the Kuna people and grew up in an indigenous village on a small island off the coast of Panama... He told me about how sacred nature was for his people. Even though I have taken several classes in ecology and I feel as if I know a lot about conservation, I realized that the knowledge that his people have about nature surpasses anything that I could learn through reading a book or listening to a lecture.”

Darius Bittle-Dockery – Fred C. Bruhns Memorial Scholarship – Jordan
“I believe that there is a real need to understand culture and the role it plays within a community’s conceptions of health and medicine that would help organizations better work with communities to resolve and abate unforeseen problems that arise with the camp and community centers.”

Corey Diehl – Josephine and John McCloskey Memorial Scholarship – Egypt
“Egyptian culture is very open towards other cultures, at least as far as my experiences were... I was at times overwhelmed with the generosity shown towards me, and believe this to be a critical staple of culture in Egypt... I really didn’t know what to expect, and was thoroughly pleased with my experiences.”

Jennifer Donnelly – Ruth Crawford Mitchell Memorial Grant – France
“This experience taught me that learning a language is a series of small triumphs and failures. Every day was a new challenge, which was both exciting and daunting... This gives me greater respect for those learning English as a second language in the United States.”

Michael Duane – Eugene Manasterski Memorial Scholarship – Ukraine
“I gained tremendous knowledge and insight about the reform process in Ukraine as far as the key players, the main challenges, and the way that Ukrainians think about reforms. I met a lot of great people who will be helpful in the future, and I also made long lasting connections so that I can continue helping the reform movement in Ukraine.”

Allison Fedorka – Israel Heritage Room Committee Scholarship – Israel
“I performed research for the Center for Migrants Rights. I helped decide how to proceed in immigration cases regarding African migrants who had escaped their home countries, traveled through Sinai, and crossed the border into Israel... Our job was to research material for papers regarding this topic and to research options for a few clients who were seeking asylum.”
**Kasey Ingram** – Stanley Prostrednik Grant – Brazil

“I will never forget the people that I met during my time abroad. I will never forget all the volunteers I came in contact with. They came from all over the world and brought many different ideas and perspectives with them. I learned so much about their culture and beliefs. I will also never forget the children and locals I came in contact with. They helped me better understand and appreciate Brazilian culture and language.”

**Jacquelynn Jones** – Indian Room Committee Scholarship – India

“Mental illnesses are presented differently in different cultures and terminology, definitions, and characteristics are also different... Modernizing/westernizing their healthcare may not be the best way to improve healthcare. This often led to communication gaps and misunderstandings. My view shifted from ‘changing the world’ to ‘improving healthcare systems based on the cultural context.’”

**Abraham Kim** – George F. & Mary Ann McGunagle Scholarship – Uganda

“Bright Kids Uganda consists of about 15 staff members. Among them, I worked closely with one, Richard Kissa, the farm manager/accountant... He was dear not only to me, but also to the rest of the staff as he had been one of the first staff members at the organization and also a child raised at this orphanage. So, another volunteer and I decided to have a farewell party for him.”

**Daniel Ku** – Dr. & Mrs. Ryonosuke Shiono Scholarship – Singapore

“Meeting interns and working professionals employed at a variety of firms and government agencies showed me how valuable international travel was to one's professional career and personal growth. Being exposed to their different lifestyles and values taught me that a strong work ethic is just as valuable as working and living abroad.”

**Alyssa Livorio** – Dorothy Bradley Brown Physical Therapy Scholarship – Australia

“The clinical that I set up in Sydney was very well organized and I was able to learn all about the Australian health system and physiotherapy as a profession. I was able to gain a lot of observation and hands-on experience, which will greatly benefit my physical therapy career here in America.”

**Christina Nikas** – Stanley Prostrednik Health Sciences Scholarship – Colombia

“I especially enjoyed driving to San Augustin to visit the ancient rock sculptures... There is an annual month-long festival called San Pedro, in which there are parades almost every weekend with beauty queens on floats from all over the country. It is quite a sight!”

**Donica O’Malley** – Scottish Room Committee/Frank & Vilma Slater Fund Scholarship – Scotland

“I would say that Scotland has a similar cultural framework to the United States. However, a few differences I noticed were that people tended to be more polite in everyday interactions, police would talk to homeless people on the streets to make sure they were okay, and there were more public places to gather.”

**Gustavo Quintero** – Ivan Santa-Cruz Memorial Scholarship – Chile

“I was able to see most of [Raúl] Ruiz's films from before his exile... Bruno Cuneo, the director of the archive happened to be a close friend of Diego Maquieira, and through him I was able to set up an interview with the poet. Diego Maquieira was more than nice and outgoing when I approached him. He was extremely kind and even made time to see me even though he was very occupied with personal family business.”

**Jared Rogers** – James W. Knox Memorial Scholarship – Cameroon – Internship

“I was able to strengthen the organization by providing a manual on the roles and responsibilities of each staff member. Additionally, this manual provided the means necessary to estimate costs, time commitments, and necessary coordination to achieve their responsibilities effectively and in a punctual manner.”
Tyana Truong – Frances and Sully Nesta Memorial Scholarship – Italy
“I experienced Italy as more than a student who was studying Italian language, I experienced Italy as an academic and was surrounded by different researchers and beautiful collections of Italian literature and art, and as an Italian by staying with an Italian family for a portion of my trip.”

Jessica Walker – Ruth Crawford Mitchell Memorial Scholarship – Jordan
“I was also able to pursue pedagogical goals by serving as the instructor for a team of students devoted to excavation of the Islamic period cemetery I am studying. It truly is a joy to see students begin a field season knowing so little about archaeology and watch them grow into inquisitive excavators.”

Trevor Wilson – Stanley Prostrednik Scholarship – France
“I am eternally grateful for the hospitality extended to me by the Russian and French faculty, students, and employees at the St. Sergius Theological Institute. It was a unique experience: spending time with a group of people that never spoke my native language but communicated with me back and forth between Russian and French... This was truly an international experience, yet what was most interesting about it was taking part in an international exchange (Russian-French) that had nothing to do with my ‘home’ culture.”

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**WELCOME NEW STAFF**

Archives - We welcome this year’s archivist—intern, Drew Balduff. He grew up in Sandusky, Ohio, and recently received his BA in English from Bowling green State University. Currently, he is a master’s student at Pitt, where he is earning a degree in Library and Information Science specializing in academic libraries. Drew is surveying the collections housed at the Nationality Rooms. His survey will inform us of new strategies we might take in the future.

Drew Balduff

Rachel Rosenberg is a senior studying Linguistics and Communication Sciences and Disorders. She is a tour guide of the Nationality Rooms and an officer of Quo Vadis in charge of training the new guides. She has been helping Maryann with organizing publicity files, compiling address lists, and any other things that happen to come up that need to be done.

Rachel Rosenberg

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**IT PAYS TO KNOW PEOPLE**

E. Maxine Bruhns

At the 8:00 a.m. June 25th Korean Construction meeting in the Austrian Room, Maxine noticed a small bird perched on one of the $7,400 Lobmeyr crystal chandeliers. But the balcony door/window was locked.

As the construction discussion intensified, she left the room, closed the door and sought help. By chance, she met carpenter Dave Martin in the elevator. Dave hurried down to get his drill, freed the lock and opened the balcony door/window.
Maxine, gently waving her head scarf tied to her cane, soon convinced the chirping bird to fly out the balcony door to freedom.

It pays to know the right people. Thanks Dave!

Amelia (Millie) Blistan - On May 21, 2015, Amelia (Millie) Blistan, a longtime member of the Czechoslovak Room Committee, passed away. Millie made her home in Peters Township and also the Strabane Woods Assisted Living Facility in Washington, PA. Millie is survived by her husband, Milan, and two children. Both Millie and Milan were active members of our classroom committee and several fraternal organizations including Sokol USA.

Edith L. Bottonari-Keimer passed away peacefully on August 31, 2015 in Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania. Born in Zurich, Switzerland in 1931 and raised in the Swiss village of Chur, she was a founding member of the Swiss Nationality Room Committee at the University of Pittsburgh and was instrumental in the Swiss Room's conception and construction. Her son Philip continues to serve on the Swiss Room Committee.

Zdeněk Suda passed away on October 21, 2015. Zdeněk played a key early organizing role in the United Europe Movement, the precursor of the present European Union. He worked as a journalist on the Czechoslovak Desk of the United States Government and was a Radio Free Europe broadcaster before he became a professor of sociology at the University of Pittsburgh. He was an active member of the Czechoslovak Room Committee.
CELEBRATING OUR DIRECTOR’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY
WITH THE NATIONALITY ROOMS PROGRAM
Maryann Sivak

On Friday, October 30, the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) at the University of Pittsburgh’s Cathedral of Learning’s Commons Room hosted a late afternoon party to salute the 50-year career of our Director, E. Maxine Bruhns.

Colleagues, friends, ethnic communities, and students joined Vice Chancellor Albert Novak and Dr. Ariel Armony, Director of UCIS, in celebrating Maxine’s long career and her many contributions to the University.

A Chinese Lion Dance, an African performer, and the Grecian Oddyssey Dancers brightened the Commons Room. Maxine and several guests joined the Greeks as they danced the Kalamatianos.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015 - 2016

2015

November 7  Nationality Rooms Holiday Decorating Day
November 8  Polish and Lithuanian Rooms’ 75th-year Anniversary Festival
November 13  Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform “Ma Vlast” (My Fatherland) by Bedrich Smetana at Heinz Hall. Co-sponsored by the Czechoslovak Room Committee
November 14  Gingerbread Cookies Workshop organized by the Czechoslovak Room Committee
November 15  Korean heritage Room Dedication
November 16-20  International Week
December 5  Czechoslovak Room Committee Christmas party, Room 1228, CofL
December 6  Holiday Open House, Cathedral of Learning Commons Room
December 24-  Holiday Recess—Office closed till January 3

2016

January 4  Office open
January 16  Nationality Rooms undecorating
January 21  Graduate Nationality Rooms scholarship submission deadline
January 25-29  Undergraduate scholarship panels
February 1-29  Undergraduate scholarship panels
February 15-29  Graduate scholarship panels